Ysmael Villegas • Army WWII
Casa Blanca

SMILEY'S BRAVERY

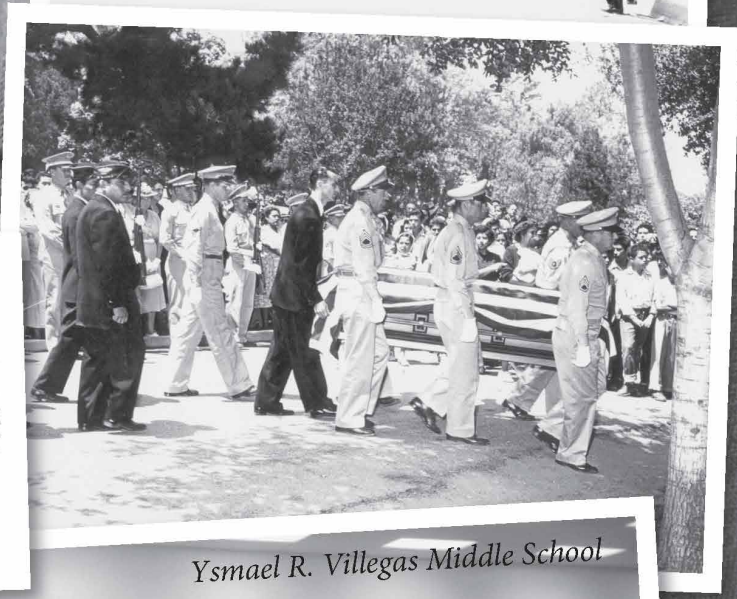
On March 20, 1945 his unit was in a forward position when they clashed with a strongly entrenched unit of the Japanese Army. Moving from man to man, while under scathing and direct fire, he encouraged his men to drive forward. Smiley took the initiative himself and in a rapid succession made direct frontal attacks on six fox holes containing Japanese gunners. He killed the occupants of the first five holes and was on his way to the sixth when a hail of enemy bullets killed him. Inspired by his gallantry, his men gained the crest of the heavily defended hill and swept the Japanese from the field.
U.S. Army tersely-worded report

STAFF SERGEANT YSMAEL VILLEGAS DAY

shall be recognized annually on March 21st in the City of Riverside, and on behalf of all our citizens, do hereby pay tribute to the bravery and the spirit of Ysmael Villegas and all that it represents to the City and to our country.

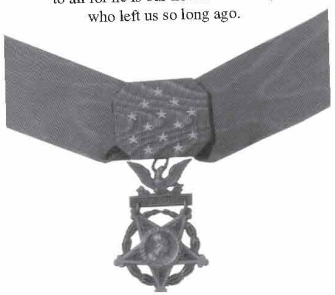
Ronald O. Loveridge, Mayor
City of Riverside, California

March 21, 2004

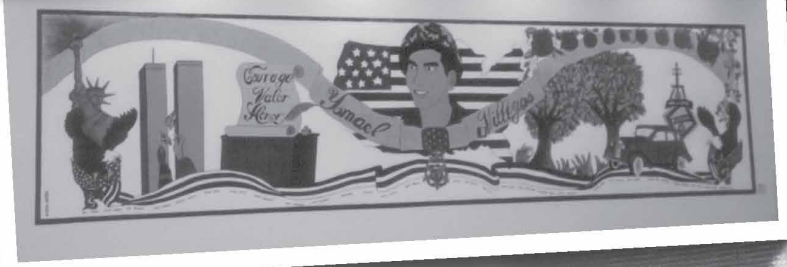


Dedication

His courage will always be and inspiration to all for he is our hometown hero, who left us so long ago.



Ysmael R. Villegas Middle School



2010 March / Marzo 2010